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LOUISIANA

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

Gayle F. Truly, Secretary

DECEMBER, 1986

RELEASE DATE:
January 26, 1987

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(In thousands)	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 1986				REVISED NOVEMBER 1986				REVISED DECEMBER 1985			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,958.4	1,690.4	268.0	13.7	1,975.4	1,706.1	269.3	13.6	1,963.0	1,740.2	222.8	11.3
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	59.9	53.3	6.6	11.0	60.0	53.4	6.6	11.0	58.1	52.4	5.7	9.7
Baton Rouge 2/	260.8	232.1	28.7	11.0	262.7	234.3	28.4	10.8	256.8	229.6	27.2	10.6
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	75.3	60.9	14.4	19.1	76.4	61.6	14.8	19.4	78.4	69.9	8.5	10.8
Lafayette 4/	105.1	88.7	16.4	15.6	107.0	90.3	16.7	15.6	109.4	99.7	9.7	8.9
Lake Charles 5/	71.9	61.1	10.8	15.0	72.6	61.8	10.8	14.8	73.4	63.9	9.5	12.9
Monroe 6/	70.0	62.3	7.7	11.0	69.9	62.3	7.6	10.8	68.4	61.7	6.7	9.8
New Orleans 7/	590.8	524.8	66.0	11.2	587.6	520.4	67.2	11.4	597.6	536.7	60.9	10.2
Shreveport 8/	164.5	142.7	21.8	13.2	166.5	144.9	21.6	13.0	167.8	148.4	19.4	11.6

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for Louisiana during December totaled 1,512,200, a decrease of 6,200 workers from November's revised level and 88,200 below the comparable period a year ago. Louisiana's manufacturing industries showed lower employment as the result of a downturn in both durable and nondurable goods. The state's nonmanufacturing employment decrease was centered in construction and services.

This public document was published at a total cost of $1,079.79. 2,900 copies of this public document were published in this 1st printing at a cost of $1,079.79. The total cost of all printing of this document, including reprints, is $1,079.79. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Labor, Office of Employment Security, Research and Statistics Unit, P.O. Box 94094, Baton Rouge, La. 70804-9094. Its purpose is to disseminate information pertaining to labor market developments and employment trends under the authority of Part 602.6, Title 20, Chap. V. of the Code of Federal Regulations. It was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

Estimated employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing, at 71,100, was 900 lower than in November. Decreased activity at logging camps, sawmills and planing mills resulted in lower employment for the lumber and wood products industry. Less demand for fabricated structural metal products contributed to the decrease in fabricated metal products employment. Less business for firms that manufacture farm and garden machinery and equipment was responsible for lower payrolls in the machinery, except electrical, industry.

Total nondurable goods employment for December was 95,200, a decrease of 400 from November's revised figure and 1,700 lower than December a year ago. The main force in this month's decrease in nondurable goods employment was a seasonal downturn in the food and kindred products industry due to decreased activity in the canned fruits and vegetables segment. Apparel and other textile products was higher for the current month largely due to increased production of men's and boys' furnishings.

Nonmanufacturing employment for Louisiana was estimated at 1,345,900 for December, a decrease of 4,900 from last month's revised level and 81,000 lower than the comparable figure a year ago. Mining employment was down as a result of a slowdown in exploration for oil and gas. A decrease in heavy construction activity was most significant in the drop in total construction payrolls. Fewer communications and public utilities payrolls were responsible for the lower employment in that segment for December. Trade employment rose as a result of increased hiring at general merchandise, apparel and accessories stores for the holiday season. Banking and real estate losses contributed to the decline in finance, insurance and real estate employment for December. Hotels and other lodging places, business services, and amusement and recreation services contributed to the downturn in total services employment. Estimated government employment in December was down due to decreases in state and local government.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 120,500 production workers in manufacturing increased from $443.30 in November to $452.40 in December, a gain of $9.10. Average hourly earnings, at $10.57, was nine cents above last month's level and seven cents higher than December 1985. Weekly hours averaged 42.8 during December, an increase of 0.5 hours above the November revised figure.

Total unemployment for Louisiana stood at 268,000 in December, a decrease of 1,300 from the November revised level of 269,300. The unemployment rate for December was 13.7 percent compared to 13.6 percent for last month and 11.3 percent for December 1985. The comparable national unemployment rate for December was 6.3 percent compared to 6.6 percent for November and 6.7 percent for December 1985. The state's civilian labor force moved from 1,975,400 in November to 1,958,400 in December, a decrease of 17,000. Total employment for Louisiana went from 1,706,100 in November to 1,690,400 in December, a drop of 15,700.

The state's unemployment rate is expected to increase over the next month. Retail trade will probably adjust downward due to the end of the holiday season. Construction may suffer from the effects of the winter weather.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	Nov. 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change from Nov. 1986	Net Change from December 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,512.2	1,518.4	1,600.4	- 6.2	-88.2
MINING	56.9	57.6	80.5	- 0.7	-23.6
Oil and Gas Extraction	53.6	54.1	77.3	- 0.5	-23.7
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.3	3.5	3.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	87.2	89.6	100.3	- 2.4	-13.1
MANUFACTURING	166.3	167.6	173.5	- 1.3	- 7.2
Durable Goods	71.1	72.0	76.6	- 0.9	- 5.5
Lumber and Wood Products	12.6	13.0	12.8	- 0.4	- 0.2
Furniture and Fixtures	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	6.3	6.3	6.8	0	- 0.5
Primary Metal Industries	3.1	3.0	3.4	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Fabricated Metal Products	11.5	11.8	13.4	- 0.3	- 1.9
Machinery, Except Electrical	7.8	8.1	9.8	- 0.3	- 2.0
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.2	7.3	7.6	- 0.1	- 0.4
Transportation Equipment	19.7	19.7	19.7	0	0
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.4	2.3	2.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	95.2	95.6	96.9	- 0.4	- 1.7
Food & Kindred Products	22.6	23.4	22.8	- 0.8	- 0.2
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.6	8.4	9.0	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Paper & Allied Products	11.4	11.3	11.4	+ 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	10.1	10.1	10.3	0	- 0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	26.0	26.0	27.3	0	- 1.3
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.0	12.0	12.3	0	- 0.3
Petroleum Refining	11.4	11.4	11.6	0	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.5	4.4	3.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	103.1	103.2	114.5	- 0.1	-11.4
Railroad Transportation	5.5	5.5	6.0	0	- 0.5
Transportation, ex. Railroads	58.1	57.9	67.1	+ 0.2	- 9.0
Water Transportation	25.7	25.8	30.7	- 0.1	- 5.0
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	39.5	39.8	41.4	- 0.3	- 1.9
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	18.5	18.7	19.8	- 0.2	- 1.3
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	21.0	21.1	21.6	- 0.1	- 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	379.6	378.1	397.3	+ 1.5	-17.7
Wholesale Trade	82.4	83.1	91.9	- 0.7	- 9.5
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	44.7	45.2	52.5	- 0.5	- 7.8
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	37.7	37.9	39.4	- 0.2	- 1.7
Retail Trade	297.2	295.0	305.4	+ 2.2	- 8.2
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	65.3	62.0	66.3	+ 3.3	- 1.0
Food Stores	60.7	60.0	58.5	+ 0.7	+ 2.2
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	30.6	31.3	32.4	- 0.7	- 1.8
Eating & Drinking Places	87.8	89.0	90.3	- 1.2	- 2.5
Other Retail Trade	52.8	52.7	57.9	+ 0.1	- 5.1

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	Nov. 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change from Nov. 1986	Net Change from December 1985
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	83.6	84.0	85.9	- 0.4	- 2.3
Banking	26.9	27.0	27.7	- 0.1	- 0.8
SERVICES	314.7	317.0	320.9	- 2.3	- 6.2
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.0	22.6	24.1	- 0.6	- 2.1
Personal Services	15.6	15.8	14.9	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Business Services	51.5	52.0	58.2	- 0.5	- 6.7
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	10.3	10.5	10.7	- 0.2	- 0.4
Miscellaneous Repair Services	6.8	6.7	7.5	+ 0.1	- 0.7
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.5	9.0	9.4	- 0.5	- 0.9
Health Services	93.1	93.1	91.0	0	+ 2.1
Legal Services	13.6	13.8	13.5	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Educational Services	27.4	27.5	25.6	- 0.1	+ 1.8
Social Services	18.2	18.2	17.9	0	+ 0.3
Membership Organizations	24.8	25.0	24.8	- 0.2	0
Miscellaneous Services	16.5	16.5	17.2	0	- 0.7
GOVERNMENT	320.8	321.3	327.5	- 0.5	- 6.7
Federal	35.3	35.2	35.7	+ 0.1	- 0.4
State and Local	285.5	286.1	291.8	- 0.6	- 6.3
State	105.0	105.3	106.4	- 0.3	- 1.4
Local	180.5	180.8	185.4	- 0.3	- 4.9

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$452.40	$443.30	$448.35	42.8	42.3	42.7	$10.57	$10.48	$10.50
Durable Goods	390.04	383.40	401.15	41.1	40.4	41.7	9.49	9.49	9.62
Lumber & Wood Products	323.57	317.16	307.33	40.7	40.3	39.2	7.95	7.87	7.84
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	323.44	354.56	370.95	35.7	40.2	38.6	9.06	8.82	9.61
Fabricated Metal Products	394.28	364.00	439.42	45.9	41.6	47.3	8.59	8.75	9.29
Machinery, ex. Electrical	447.12	384.33	395.79	43.2	38.9	41.1	10.35	9.88	9.63
Electric & Electronic Equip.	448.06	389.24	468.63	38.1	40.5	41.0	11.76	12.08	11.43
Transportation Equipment	439.10	426.30	461.32	41.7	40.6	41.9	10.53	10.50	11.01
Nondurable Goods	505.46	495.00	490.75	44.3	44.0	43.7	11.41	11.25	11.23
Food & Kindred Products	337.93	328.26	327.38	44.7	44.3	44.3	7.56	7.41	7.39
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	226.56	219.60	200.54	41.8	41.2	37.0	5.42	5.33	5.42
Paper & Allied Products	625.05	614.51	598.91	45.0	43.8	44.2	13.89	14.03	13.55
Printing & Publishing	386.90	390.37	405.08	37.6	37.9	41.0	10.29	10.30	9.88
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	691.91	684.03	651.53	44.9	45.3	42.5	15.41	15.10	15.33
Petroleum & Coal Products	728.65	714.42	741.49	49.4	49.0	51.6	14.75	14.58	14.37
Petroleum Refining	740.45	728.08	763.35	50.2	49.8	52.5	14.75	14.62	14.54
MINING	555.73	476.35	552.48	46.7	41.1	48.0	11.90	11.59	11.51
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	527.77	529.88	538.20	41.2	41.3	41.4	12.81	12.83	13.00
BANKING	264.13	263.16	258.33	38.9	38.7	39.5	6.79	6.80	6.54

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 120,500 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 87,000 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 12 86				REVISED 11 86			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	24,225	19,825	4,400	18.2	25,350	20,525	4,825	19.1
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,600	8,000	1,600	16.7	9,825	8,100	1,725	17.5
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	8,150	6,125	2,025	24.8	8,450	6,375	2,075	24.6
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	16,675	13,300	3,375	20.2	17,350	14,225	3,125	18.1
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	13,775	11,875	1,900	13.8	13,775	11,925	1,850	13.5
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,875	5,825	1,050	15.4	6,900	5,925	975	14.1
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,750	3,875	875	18.5	4,850	3,950	900	18.6
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,650	4,075	575	12.6	4,825	4,250	575	11.9
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,925	3,675	1,250	25.3	5,075	3,875	1,200	23.5
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,925	6,975	950	12.1	8,100	7,125	975	12.0
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,275	8,150	2,125	20.6	10,625	8,600	2,025	19.1
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	14,000	11,750	2,250	16.1	14,475	12,125	2,350	16.3
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,325	3,325	1,000	22.9	4,550	3,725	825	18.0
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,550	7,500	1,050	12.3	8,700	7,600	1,100	12.5
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	14,025	11,300	2,725	19.4	14,725	11,950	2,775	18.9
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,425	6,675	1,750	20.8	8,800	7,050	1,750	19.9
COLFAX (GRANT)	7,125	6,025	1,100	15.5	7,275	6,200	1,075	14.9
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	30,625	24,500	6,125	20.0	31,575	25,300	6,275	19.9
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	12,100	9,975	2,125	17.6	12,275	10,200	2,075	16.8
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	7,200	6,425	775	10.7	7,300	6,550	750	10.3
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	13,125	10,750	2,375	18.0	13,575	11,075	2,500	18.5
JENA (LASALLE)	6,950	5,875	1,075	15.5	7,275	6,150	1,125	15.5
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	18,150	16,925	1,225	6.8	18,425	17,225	1,200	6.5
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,925	4,850	1,075	18.2	6,025	5,050	975	16.3
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,500	10,350	2,150	17.2	12,675	10,650	2,025	16.1
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,700	15,400	2,300	13.0	17,975	15,800	2,175	12.1
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	9,950	8,575	1,375	13.8	10,225	8,825	1,400	13.7
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	8,425	6,750	1,675	19.9	8,600	6,950	1,650	19.3
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,450	3,750	700	15.8	4,350	3,850	500	11.7
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,675	7,100	1,575	18.2	8,925	7,425	1,500	16.8
MANY (SABINE)	10,000	8,600	1,400	14.0	10,250	8,775	1,475	14.3
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	3,300	2,775	525	16.0	3,400	2,850	550	16.0
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	8,325	6,975	1,350	16.3	8,350	7,000	1,350	16.1
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	36,500	29,000	7,500	20.5	37,450	29,775	7,675	20.5
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	31,000	23,700	7,300	23.6	31,750	24,200	7,550	23.8
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	39,750	33,700	6,050	15.2	40,225	34,200	6,025	15.0
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,550	2,900	650	18.6	3,625	3,100	525	14.3
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,450	7,250	1,200	14.2	8,500	7,325	1,175	13.8
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	22,025	17,250	4,775	21.6	22,400	17,575	4,825	21.6
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	19,175	17,300	1,875	9.8	19,100	17,225	1,875	9.8
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	18,825	16,250	2,575	13.7	19,125	16,550	2,575	13.5
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	20,150	16,825	3,325	16.5	20,325	17,100	3,225	15.9
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,975	3,675	1,300	26.1	5,250	3,975	1,275	24.2
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,300	3,800	500	11.5	4,325	3,825	500	11.8
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,725	5,000	725	12.6	5,775	5,050	725	12.7

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	November 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change From November 1986	Net Change From December 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.6	45.4	45.7	+ 0.2	- 0.1
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.6	2.6	2.8	0	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.4	11.2	11.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	9.3	9.1	9.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.3	2.2	2.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
Other Retail Trade	3.5	3.4	3.5	+ 0.1	0
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
SERVICES	10.3	10.3	10.0	0	+ 0.3
Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0
GOVERNMENT	12.8	12.8	13.2	0	- 0.4
Federal	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
State and Local	10.2	10.2	10.6	0	- 0.4
State	5.1	5.1	5.5	0	- 0.4
Local	5.1	5.1	5.1	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area was estimated at 45,600 during December. This estimate was 200 more than November and 100 less than December of last year.

Estimated employment in manufacturing during December totaled 3,500. This is unchanged from the previous month and the same as December of last year.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 42,100 during December. This was an increase of 200 and the increase was in retail trade. Compared to December of last year, employment in nonmanufacturing has decreased by 100. There have been some offsetting gains and losses. Construction and state government show reductions, with retail trade and services showing gains.

During the next thirty days seasonal changes are anticipated, with employment in retail sales and outdoor related employment declining.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	Nov. 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change From Nov. 1986	Net Change From December 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	213.9	214.5	215.6	- 0.6	- 1.7
MANUFACTURING	19.9	20.0	20.5	- 0.1	- 0.6
Durable Goods	4.2	4.3	4.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.9	1.9	- 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	15.7	15.7	16.2	0	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.8	0	- 0.2
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	11.2	11.2	11.6	0	- 0.4
Other Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
MINING	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	21.5	21.9	21.2	- 0.4	+ 0.3
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.6	10.6	10.2	0	+ 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	51.3	51.0	52.5	+ 0.3	- 1.2
Wholesale Trade	10.6	10.6	11.0	0	- 0.4
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7.2	7.2	7.8	0	- 0.6
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.4	3.2	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	40.7	40.4	41.5	+ 0.3	- 0.8
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.5	13.8	14.0	- 0.3	- 0.5
Banking	4.0	4.1	4.4	- 0.1	- 0.4
SERVICES	41.7	41.8	41.1	- 0.1	+ 0.6
GOVERNMENT	54.1	54.1	54.9	0	- 0.8
Federal	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
State and Local	51.9	51.9	52.7	0	- 0.8
State	31.3	31.2	31.9	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Local	20.6	20.7	20.8	- 0.1	- 0.2

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$517.59	$512.12	$510.62	42.6	43.4	43.2	$12.15	$11.80	$11.82
Petro-Chemicals	705.74	696.45	640.50	46.8	47.8	43.9	15.08	14.57	14.59

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 213,900 during December was down 600 from the November revised estimate. Manufacturing was down 100 and nonmanufacturing was down 500.

Employment in manufacturing, at 19,900 in December, was down during the current period. Durable goods employment was down due to less business in blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling and finishing mills, and in iron and steel foundries. Nondurable goods showed no change.

Total nonmanufacturing was down during the current period. Mining showed no change. Construction was down due to less business in general building contractors-nonresidential buildings and in miscellaneous special trade contractors. Transportation and public utilities showed no change. Wholesale trade showed no change while retail trade was up due to more business in department stores, in grocery stores, and in men's and boys' clothing and furnishings stores. Finance, insurance and real estate was down due to less business in commercial and stock savings banks, in accident and health insurance and medical service plans, and in insurance agents, brokers, and services. Services employment was down due to less business in hotels, motels, and tourist courts; in automotive repair shops; and in legal services. Government showed no change; however, a small increase in state government was offset by a decrease in local government.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,600 production workers in all manufacturing was $517.59, up $5.47 from the revised November average. Average weekly hours were down 0.8 hours and average hourly earnings were up $0.35 from last month's averages. More overtime worked by higher paid workers in petro-chemicals contributed to these changes.

Total employment of the Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 232,100 during December, down 2,200 from November's revised total. Unemployment, at 28,700 during December, was up 300 from the November total. The December unemployment rate at 11.0 percent was up from last month's revised 10.8 percent. The statewide unemployment rate for December was 13.7 percent and the national rate was 6.3 percent. The Baton Rouge LMA civilian labor force totaled 260,800 during the current period.

Unemployment and the unemployment rate are expected to show seasonal increases during the coming month.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 1,982 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 324 applicants in jobs during December.

The consumer price index for November, 1986 for all urban consumers was 330.8 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 325.4 using base period 1967=100.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	Nov. 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change From Nov. 1986	Net Change From December 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	53.0	53.1	62.6	- 0.1	- 9.6
MANUFACTURING	4.4	4.5	5.3	- 0.1	- 0.9
Durable Goods	2.6	2.7	3.1	- 0.1	- 0.5
Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	2.2	0	- 0.4
MINING	6.5	6.6	8.2	- 0.1	- 1.7
CONSTRUCTION	1.8	1.9	2.8	- 0.1	- 1.0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5.9	5.8	7.7	+ 0.1	- 1.8
Water Transportation	4.1	4.0	5.0	+ 0.1	- 0.9
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.2	13.0	15.5	+ 0.2	- 2.3
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.9	3.5	0	- 0.6
Retail Trade	10.3	10.1	12.0	+ 0.2	- 1.7
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.1	3.5	+ 0.1	- 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
SERVICES	7.7	7.7	9.1	0	- 1.4
GOVERNMENT	10.9	11.0	11.4	- 0.1	- 0.5
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	10.4	10.5	10.9	- 0.1	- 0.5
State	3.3	3.2	3.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Local	7.1	7.3	7.8	- 0.2	- 0.7

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in December eased down to 53,000, a level 100 below November. A small overall seasonal upturn in retail trade was offset by downturns in other industries. Since December of 1985, total employment lost 9,600 workers, showing a reduction of 15.3 percent.

Mining eased down with the arrival of the worst season of the year for outside work. Construction made a seasonal reduction in employment. Local government effected downward adjustments. More favorably, retail trade increased as shopping for the holiday season neared its peak. Water transportation edged up slightly. Finance, insurance, and real estate showed no change. Services held steady.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,400 in December with a decrease of 100 over the previous month in durable goods. Nondurable goods remained unchanged. Compared to one year ago manufacturing employment is down 500.

Estimated unemployment in December eased down to 14,400, a level 400 below November. Seasonal factors were mostly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 19.1 percent of the labor force compared to 19.4 percent in November and 10.8 percent in December of last year. The December rate was much higher than the state rate of 13.7 percent and very much higher than the comparable national rate of 6.3 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 3,755.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA - CONTINUED
EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show normal seasonal changes. Retail trade will make typical downward adjustments following the close of the holiday season. Construction and mining will be adversely affected by winter weather conditions. Unemployment will probably show some increase.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	Nov. 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change From Nov. 1986	Net Change From December 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	85.5	86.2	99.7	- 0.7	-14.2
MANUFACTURING	4.7	4.8	6.1	- 0.1	- 1.4
Durable Goods	1.3	1.4	2.2	- 0.1	- 0.9
Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.4	3.9	0	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	1.9	1.8	1.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
MINING	13.3	13.2	17.4	+ 0.1	- 4.1
CONSTRUCTION	3.7	4.0	5.3	- 0.3	- 1.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.4	6.4	7.3	0	- 0.9
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	22.8	23.0	26.0	- 0.2	- 3.2
Wholesale Trade	5.3	5.4	6.6	- 0.1	- 1.3
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	3.2	3.3	4.3	- 0.1	- 1.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.3	0	- 0.2
Retail Trade	17.5	17.6	19.4	- 0.1	- 1.9
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.8	3.5	3.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Food Stores	2.6	2.7	3.0	- 0.1	- 0.4
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.5	1.5	1.8	0	- 0.3
Other Retail Trade	9.6	9.9	11.0	- 0.3	- 1.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.4	3.5	3.9	- 0.1	- 0.5
Banking	1.4	1.4	1.6	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	17.0	17.2	19.9	- 0.2	- 2.9
GOVERNMENT	14.2	14.1	13.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Federal	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
State and Local	13.3	13.2	12.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
State	5.5	5.5	5.4	0	+ 0.1
Local	7.8	7.7	7.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette MSA was estimated at 85,500, a decrease of 700 from the November revised level and 14,200 below the December 1985 figure.

Nonmanufacturing employment, at 80,800 showed a decrease of 600 from last month and was 12,800 lower than the year-ago figure.

Mining was estimated at 13,300, up 100 from November but 4,100 less than the December a year ago figure.

Construction was 300 less than November of this year and 1,600 less than December 1985.

The unemployment rate in the Lafayette area will probably remain about the same for the next 30 days.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	Nov. 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change From Nov. 1986	Net Change From December 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	55.7	55.6	58.3	+ 0.1	- 2.6
MANUFACTURING	8.6	8.5	9.1	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Durable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.1	0.1	0.2	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	7.8	7.7	8.3	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.4	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.0	6.9	7.4	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	1.7	1.6	2.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4
CONSTRUCTION	3.4	3.3	3.6	+ 0.1	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.0	4.1	4.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.3	14.4	14.7	- 0.1	- 0.4
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.9	3.1	0	- 0.2
Retail Trade	11.4	11.5	11.6	- 0.1	- 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.5	2.4	2.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.7	3.8	3.6	- 0.1	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.7	0	- 0.1
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	9.7	9.8	10.8	- 0.1	- 1.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Personal Services	0.5	0.6	0.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	11.4	11.3	11.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Federal	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
State and Local	10.7	10.6	10.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
State	4.0	4.0	3.8	0	+ 0.2
Local	6.7	6.6	6.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for December in the Lake Charles MSA stood at 55,700, an increase of 100 from the November revised level but 2,600 below the comparable period a year ago.

Total nonmanufacturing employment remained stable for December, however mining and construction each showed an increase of 100 over the November revised figure.

Unemployment should remain close to the current level for the next month.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	Nov. 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change From Nov. 1986	Net Change From December 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	56.1	55.5	56.6	+ 0.6	- 0.5
MANUFACTURING	7.8	7.8	7.5	0	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	2.5	2.6	2.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.3	2.4	2.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	5.3	5.2	5.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.7	0.8	+ 0.1	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.7	3.7	3.4	0	+ 0.3
MINING	0.4	0.4	0.7	0	- 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	3.8	3.7	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.5	2.5	2.7	0	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.8	15.6	16.7	+ 0.2	- 0.9
Wholesale Trade	4.1	4.2	4.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Retail Trade	11.7	11.4	12.4	+ 0.3	- 0.7
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.6	3.3	4.0	+ 0.3	- 0.4
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.7	2.7	3.0	0	- 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.5	4.4	4.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
SERVICES	10.9	10.9	11.1	0	- 0.2
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.7	0.6	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Health Services	4.6	4.6	4.5	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	10.4	10.2	9.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.8	9.6	9.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
State	4.8	4.8	4.8	0	0
Local	5.0	4.8	4.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.6

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment, estimated at 56,100 during December, rose by 600 from the November estimate of 55,500.

Manufacturing was unchanged over the month; however, there was some movement as durable goods lost 100 workers while nondurable goods was up by 100.

Nonmanufacturing rose by 600. Construction was up by 100. Wholesale and retail trade gained 200 workers as the holiday season reached its peak. Finance, insurance and real estate inched upward with a minimal gain of 100. Government was up by 200. All other segments were unchanged.

Over the next 30 days, employment is expected to decline as the holiday season will be over. Over the same period, unemployment is expected to increase as the holiday season comes to an end and inclement weather is expected.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	Nov. 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change From Nov. 1986	Net Change From December 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	511.1	512.6	533.0	- 1.5	-21.9
MANUFACTURING	43.0	43.1	44.5	- 0.1	- 1.5
Durable Goods	20.8	20.8	21.8	0	- 1.0
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.6	1.6	1.8	0	- 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	2.5	2.4	3.1	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Machinery	2.5	2.6	3.0	- 0.1	- 0.5
Transportation Equipment	11.9	11.9	11.7	0	+ 0.2
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	8.0	8.0	7.2	0	+ 0.8
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.7	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	22.2	22.3	22.7	- 0.1	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	6.9	6.9	6.9	0	0
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.6	1.6	1.8	0	- 0.2
Paper & Allied Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Printing & Publishing	3.5	3.6	3.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.1	4.1	4.3	0	- 0.2
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.6	4.6	4.6	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	16.2	16.2	19.2	0	- 3.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	15.7	15.7	18.7	0	- 3.0
CONSTRUCTION	23.0	23.5	27.1	- 0.5	- 4.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	42.4	42.6	45.4	- 0.2	- 3.0
Railroad Transportation	1.8	1.8	2.0	0	- 0.2
Water Transportation	12.0	12.3	13.7	- 0.3	- 1.7
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	140.2	139.2	145.0	+ 1.0	- 4.8
Wholesale Trade	32.0	32.0	34.9	0	- 2.9
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	18.3	18.3	20.8	0	- 2.5
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.7	13.7	14.1	0	- 0.4
Retail Trade	108.2	107.2	110.1	+ 1.0	- 1.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	32.7	32.9	33.1	- 0.2	- 0.4
Banking	7.8	7.8	7.6	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	128.9	130.3	133.0	- 1.4	- 4.1
GOVERNMENT	84.7	84.8	85.7	- 0.1	- 1.0
Federal	15.5	15.5	15.8	0	- 0.3
State and Local	69.2	69.3	69.9	- 0.1	- 0.7
State	21.6	21.6	22.0	0	- 0.4
Local	47.6	47.7	47.9	- 0.1	- 0.3

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**
All MANUFACTURING	$432.60	$425.82	$444.14	41.2	40.4	41.9	$10.50	$10.54	$10.60
Durable Goods	392.28	378.10	404.58	40.4	39.1	41.2	9.71	9.67	9.82
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	309.08	332.77	360.57	32.5	34.2	35.7	9.51	9.73	10.10
Fabricated Metal Products	369.15	339.95	449.00	37.9	34.2	50.0	9.74	9.94	8.98
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	393.96	382.05	396.70	42.0	40.6	39.2	9.38	9.41	10.12
Nondurable Goods	470.82	471.63	482.38	42.0	41.7	42.5	11.21	11.31	11.35
Food & Kindred Products	331.70	322.97	330.08	40.9	39.1	40.5	8.11	8.26	8.15
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	147.00	155.93	135.94	30.0	29.2	23.6	4.90	5.34	5.76
Paper & Allied Products	472.23	387.86	477.12	49.5	43.0	49.7	9.54	9.02	9.60
Printing & Publishing	354.00	380.33	431.30	37.5	39.7	45.4	9.44	9.58	9.50
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	685.54	701.16	676.53	44.2	45.5	42.9	15.51	15.41	15.77

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 29,100 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans LMA in December moved down to 511,100, a level 1,500 below November. Seasonal gains in retail trade were offset by decreases in other industries. Over the year, nonagricultural employment exhibited an overall loss of 21,900 spread through every industry division. In December, nonagricultural employment stood at the lowest level since February 1979, with the exception of a few months in the middle of 1986.

Manufacturing employment totaled 43,000 in December, down 100 from the previous month. Durable goods registered no change over the previous month. However, nondurable goods decreased 100 because of less business in the printing and publishing segment. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment was down 1,500 employees.

Retail trade was favored by normal seasonal upturns, largely in general merchandise stores, apparel stores, and miscellaneous stores. However, this sizable total increase was easily offset by decreases in other industries. Services was lowered by employment reductions in the hotel-motel industry, business services, private health services, and social services. More favorable was a gain in amusement services with the opening of the Fair Grounds racing season. Construction sustained the downtrend of recent months. Water transportation showed a decrease. Local government made downward adjustments. Real estate exhibited a seasonal downturn. Mining held steady.

Production workers in the area earned an average $432.60 a week in December, up $6.78 from last month's average. Average weekly hours increased 48 minutes from the previous month and average hourly earnings decreased four cents. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings were down $11.54.

Estimated unemployment in December moved down to 66,000, a level 1,200 below November. Seasonal factors were mainly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 11.2 percent of the labor force, compared to 11.4 percent in November and 10.2 percent in December of last year. The December rate was somewhat lower than the state rate of 13.7 percent but much higher than the comparable national rate of 6.3 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 16,335. About 42.0 percent of the claimants were nonwhite; approximately 34.0 percent were female.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to exhibit normal seasonal changes. Retail trade will make typical downward adjustments following the close of the holiday season. Construction and mining will be hampered by winter weather conditions. Unemployment will probably show some increase.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1986*	November 1986**	December 1985**	Net Change From November 1986	Net Change From December 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	130.6	131.2	138.6	- 0.6	- 8.0
MANUFACTURING	18.1	18.0	19.3	+ 0.1	- 1.2
Durable Goods	13.3	13.2	14.4	+ 0.1	- 1.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Metals and Machinery	7.7	7.7	8.6	0	- 0.9
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.8	1.8	2.1	0	- 0.3
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	5.9	5.9	6.5	0	- 0.6
Other Durable Goods	4.9	4.8	5.1	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Nondurable Good	4.8	4.8	4.9	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
MINING	2.7	2.8	4.8	- 0.1	- 2.1
CONSTRUCTION	7.0	7.4	7.9	- 0.4	- 0.9
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.7	7.7	8.5	0	- 0.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	30.8	30.6	34.1	+ 0.2	- 3.3
Wholesale Trade	8.1	8.1	8.6	0	- 0.5
Retail Trade	22.7	22.5	25.5	+ 0.2	- 2.8
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.9	7.8	8.0	+ 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICES	29.9	30.3	29.5	- 0.4	+ 0.4
GOVERNMENT	26.5	26.6	26.5	- 0.1	0
Federal	4.5	4.5	4.4	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	22.0	22.1	22.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
State	8.3	8.3	7.3	0	+ 1.0
Local	13.7	13.8	14.8	- 0.1	- 1.1

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**	December '86*	Nov. '86**	December '85**
All MANUFACTURING	$533.42	$488.36	$410.29	44.6	42.1	39.3	$11.96	$11.60	$10.44
Lumber and Wood Products	160.45	179.04	225.82	28.1	30.5	37.7	5.71	5.87	5.99
Metals and Machinery	649.73	556.66	417.51	51.2	46.7	40.3	12.69	11.92	10.36
Food and Kindred Products	303.96	302.71	314.57	40.1	40.2	41.5	7.58	7.53	7.58
Printing and Publishing	312.96	295.36	274.86	33.4	32.0	32.8	9.37	9.23	8.38
Petroleum and Coal Products	621.07	546.54	503.87	45.6	42.4	42.2	13.62	12.89	11.94

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 13,100 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Shreveport LMA decreased to 130,600, down from 131,200 in November and 138,600 in December, 1985. Manufacturing employment showed a slight increase from the previous month, but was 1,200 less than one year ago. Total nonmanufacturing employment, estimated at 112,500, has declined from 113,200 in November and was 6,800 less than the December 1985 estimate.

The manufacturing employment total is nearly unchanged from the revised November estimate, but remains 1,200 less than one year ago. The slight employment increase occurred in the manufacturing of durable goods, primarily stone, clay and glass products and transportation equipment.

Nonmanufacturing employment showed a decline of 700 during the past month. Most of these job losses were in construction and services industries, while mining and total government employment dropped 100 below the November estimate. Employment gains occurred in retail trade, up from 30,600 in November to 30,800 in December, and in finance, insurance and real estate which increased slightly to 7,900, up from 7,800 in November.

Average weekly earnings for 13,100 manufacturing production workers in the Shreveport LMA increased to $533.42, up from $488.36 last month and $410.29 one year ago. Average weekly hours moved up to 44.6 hours, compared to 42.1 last month and 39.3 in December, 1985. The average hourly earnings increased to $11.96, up from $11.60 last month and $10.44 in December, 1985.

The Shreveport LMA has a civilian labor force of 164,500, including 142,700 employed and 21,800 unemployed. The current unemployment rate is 13.2 percent, compared to 13.7 percent for Louisiana.

Barring an unexpected mass layoff or plant closing, nonagricultural employment for this LMA should remain near or slightly below the present level during the first quarter of 1987. Total unemployment will remain high. The unemployment rate is expected to stay near 13.0 percent for the new two months.